



The 1869 wedding of the rails is re-enacted Monday at Promontory Summit National Golden Spike Historic Site.

113th anniversary

Despite rain, spike rites draw 3,000

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PROMONTORY SUMMIT, Box Elder County — Adverse weather failed to dampen the spirits of the crowd assembled to watch the re-enactment Monday of the driving of the golden spike on its 113th anniversary.

Despite the cold, the crowd was larger than the one that attended last year's celebration. A spokesman for the National Golden Spike Historic Site, Paul Hedren, estimated this year's crowd at more than 3,000.

"We would have had more if the weather had been better," he said. "Some schools called and said they wouldn't be bringing their students because of the weather."

Speaker Nathan H. Mazer, president of the

National Railroad Hall of Fame, spoke of the historic link the area has to major events in man's progress in transportation.

American history relates no greater or more thrilling event than the May 10, 1869, driving of the last spike to link the Union Pacific and Central Pacific tracks into a transcontinental railroad, he said.

"A dream of many became a reality as the trains chugged together and stopped about 20 feet apart," he said.

Brigham Young was a principal subcontractor of the early railroads, he noted. And prominent Mormon names also appeared on the roster of subcontractors for the space shuttle booster motor produced at Thiokol, just a few miles from the Golden Spike site.

"This maintains the thread of continuity from the past to the future in this unique area," Mazer said.

Many visitors stayed at the site while a cold rain fell on actors re-enacting the golden spike ceremony. Others watched from the shelter of the visitors center as, at 11:30 a.m., the ceremony began with the presentation of a 20-star flag by members of the Mormon Battalion.

Choirs from Box Elder High School and the Bear River High School Band supplied music. Children waved and shouted as television helicopters circled above the locomotive replicas, adding another modern touch to the historic scene.

A special spike marathon presentation was made by Jeffrey Nielsen, Jonathan Lloyd and Steve Nuetzman, who pedaled bicycles 32 miles from Brigham City to the site, hand-carrying a spike.

